

From: Margaret Baecker
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/4/02 12:39am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 120
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I am writing in support of the proposed settlement agreement with Microsoft that would provide technology funds, computers and software to schools in low-income communities.

The State of Wisconsin would benefit from the technology funds. Our state falls below the national average in the percentage of 4th-8th grade students in schools that have computers available in all classrooms. In addition, about one half of Wisconsin Education Association Council members feel that they have adequate training to operate computers and software in their schools. Less than half of these teachers feel that they get technology training, provided by their schools, to integrate technology into curriculum. The additional funding for teacher training in technology would be beneficial for smaller school districts, such as mine, which are feeling the effects of decreased state funding to meet operating expenses. In many cases, there is only limited revenue to provide technology training.

Needless to say, computer and telecommunication technologies are important educational tools in our schools. Computer literacy is an educational goal in our schools, providing students with technology skills that are needed to meet the learning requirements for future jobs. No student or teacher should be denied the opportunity to become computer-literate. The proposed Microsoft Settlement is most positive, and certainly would benefit students, teachers, and schools that need technology funding the most.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Margaret Baecker
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